

Dr. William Davies Hutchings Office
718 West Third Street
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IND-81

HABS
IND,
39-MAD,
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IND-81

DR. WILLIAM DAVIES HUTCHINGS' OFFICE

Location: 718 West Third Street (north side of street), Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana

USGS Madison West Quadrangle Map Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16.640480.4288760

Present Owner and Occupant: Historic Madison, Incorporated

Present Use: Storage of Dr. Hutchings' medical instruments; pending completion of arrangements to open as a museum

Statement of Significance: Dr. Hutchings' Office was erected circa 1846-48. It is an excellent example of a conservatively designed Greek Revival building. Between 1848 and 1903 the structure was used as the office of two lawyers and a doctor, each a well-known professional figure in Indiana. Hutchings' office is the finest local example of a nineteenth century office building which was constructed in association with a residence. The residence, however, was demolished in 1969.

PART I. HISTORICAL

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1846-48. The tax records for the City of Madison are not entirely clear in dating this structure. The great increase in the assessed value of the property from 1846 for \$2500 to 1848 for \$4000 would indicate the improvement of the property. However, after the property was acquired by M. G. Bright in 1848, the assessed value of the property again greatly increased, and was assessed at \$8000. These figures indicate that the structure was erected sometime between 1846 and 1848.
2. Architect: No information available.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of property: Lot number 57, on which the structure stands, is part of the extension platted in the original town "First Addition West" in 1815.

The following chain of title to the property is in the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Jefferson County.

- 1838 Deed, April 4, 1838, recorded April 4, 1838 in Book 0, page 396. James H. Wallace to Jacob Shuh, for consideration of \$438.69.
 - 1848 Deed, January 1, 1848, recorded January 3, 1848 in Book 3, page 157. Jacob Shuh to Michael G. Bright, the "goods, chattel and tenements," for consideration of \$2300.
 - 1865 Deed, October 26, 1865, recorded October 26, 1865 in Book 26, page 35. Michael G. Bright and Betsy, his wife, to Letita M. Bright, his wife, to Michael G. Bright, consideration of \$1.
 - 1869 Deed, December 21, 1869, recorded December 21, 1869 in Book 33, page 17. Michael G. Bright and Betsy, his wife, to James H. Green and Emily, his wife.
 - 1870 Deed, August 23, 1870, recorded August 23, 1870 in Book 33, page 248. James H. Green and Emily his wife to James D. Lewis, consideration of \$7000.
 - 1871 Deed, January 30, 1871, recorded January 30, 1871 in Book 31, page 372. James B. Lewis and Hannah, his wife to Drusilla L. Cravens and John her husband, consideration of \$5500.
 - 1882 Deed, November 15, 1882, recorded November 18, 1882 in Book 47, page 19. Drusilla L. Cravens and John R. Cravens to Matilda C. Hutchings, consideration of \$6000.
 - 1966 Deed, June 22, 1966, recorded June 22, 1966 in Book 140, page 277. Lida Hutchings to Elizabeth Z. Kelemen.
 - 1966 Deed, June 30, 1969, recorded June 30, 1969 in Book 148, page 113. Elizabeth Z. Kelemen and Paul Kelemen to Historic Madison, Incorporated.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: No information available.
5. Original plan and construction: This narrow two-story brick structure is rectangular in shape and measures 18' (two-bay front) x 34'. It is built on a narrow lot, 28'-8" wide by 112' deep. In keeping with early nineteenth-century Greek Revival stylistic trends, the roof gable faces south towards

the street. The interior is a two-room plan and the rooms are nearly equal in size. During Dr. Hutchings' occupancy, the first floor rooms were used as a waiting room and surgery room, and both second-floor chambers served as patient recovery rooms.

6. Alterations and additions: No significant changes appear to have been made since the structure was erected.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

1. Michael Graham Bright

Michael G. Bright was the first person known to have occupied the office, opening it for his law practice in 1848. A lawyer and financier, Bright was born in 1803 and came to Madison with his family in 1820. He studied law under Judge Jeremiah Sullivan in Madison, subsequently serving as a representative in the state legislature, a state agent, and an elected member of the Constitutional Convention of 1850. In this last capacity Bright was the author of several sections of the Indiana State Constitution. After twenty years of establishing a highly respected practice in Madison, Bright moved onward (and upward) to Indianapolis in 1868.

2. John Robert Cravens

Attorney J. R. Cravens lived in the adjacent house from 1871 to 1882, also using the small structure as his law office. He was a son-in-law of James F. D. Lanier, prominent Indiana banker and financier and a Judge of Jefferson County's Criminal Court. The owner of a local newspaper, Cravens established himself as one of Madison's earliest local historians through his column. He was president and vice-president of two railroad companies and for many years served as a trustee of the University of Indiana and of Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana.

3. William Davies Hutchings

The property remained in the hands of the Hutchings family for over eighty years. Occupied by Dr. Hutchings from 1882 until his death in 1903, it then became primarily the storeroom for his medical equipment. During his years in practice the front room served as a waiting room, the rear room as a dispensary and operating room. The two second floor rooms served as a small hospital, and, occasionally, an overflow of patients was transferred to the Doctor's house next door. Today, much of

The furniture, office and medical equipment, and records survive. Thirty of Hutchings' sixty year medical practice in Indiana were spent in Madison. In addition, he served two terms in the Indiana legislature and was a Master Mason.

Because of Dr. Hutchings' local and state reputation and his long and enduring association with the building, the structure's use as the Doctor's office stands as its most significant role.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photograph of Dr. Hutchings' "big house with the office in the background." Cover, Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association, Vol. 65, no. 7 (July 1971).

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

- Interviews:

- John T. Windle, President of Historic Madison, Inc.,
Shrewsbury House, 301 West First Street, Madison,
July 15, 1971.

- Rachel Haigh, formerly curator of James F. D. Lanier
State Memorial, 108 East Third Street, Madison,
July 16, 1971.

- "Dr. Hutchings," a handwritten manuscript by "his
daughter Maude," 1916, Hutchings File, Madison and
Jefferson County Public Library.

- Tax Records and Assessments of the City of Madison,
1837-1852, Madison City Hall, Madison, Indiana.

- Jefferson County Deed Records, Office of the Recorder,
Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison, Indiana.

- b. Secondary and published sources:

- Kelemen, Elizabeth Z. "A Horse-and-Buggy Doctor in Hoosier-
land," Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association,
Vol. 65, no. 7 (July 1971), 717-28.

Williams, C. S. Williams Madison Directory, City Guide
and Business Mirror, Vol. I, 1859-60 Madison,
Indiana: W. P. Levy & Co., 1859

Woolen, William Wesley. Biographical and Historic Sketches
of Early Indiana. Indianapolis, 1883.

Prepared by Philip Dole
Team Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1971

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This mid-nineteenth century structure was designed on a small scale and constructed originally as a professional office building. The well-proportioned design reflects the simplicity characteristic of the Greek Revival style. It has been excellently maintained throughout the years.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The structure is rectangular in shape, two stories high, and measures 18' (two-bay front) x 34'.
2. Foundations: Cellar walls and foundations are of rough, irregularly coursed stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red brick laid in common bond with headers every ninth course.
4. Structural system, framing: Perimeter walls are load bearing brick construction. The floor joist system, partitions, and roof framing are of wood.
5. Chimneys: Two chimneys, serving two fireplaces each, are built into the west wall.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The front door lintel and sill are of stone. A leaded four-light transom is above the entrance. The upper half of the door is glass framed by a heavy moulding, and the lower half has two panels, also with heavy mouldings.
- b. Windows: All windows are six-over-six light double-hung sash with cut stone sills. The windows on the facade have stone lintels. All windows have louvred shutters.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The low-pitched gable roof (5 in 12 pitch) is covered with metal shingles. The front gable is pedimented with a classic entablature and wooden cornice.
- b. Cornice: There is a corbeled brick cornice along the east elevation.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Cellar: Access is by a steep stair at the rear of the building. The cellar is an open space with an earth floor and irregularly coursed rubble stone walls.
- b. First floor: The first floor consists of two, approximately square, rooms with a fireplace in each and an enclosed stairway between. One served as a waiting room, the other as an operating room.
- c. Second floor: Identical to the first floor's plan. The rooms were used as patient recovery rooms.
- d. Attic: The attic is a very low space.

2. Stairways: There is a steep outside stair to the cellar. Access to the main stair is from the rear first floor room, which has winders leading to an enclosed run that ascends to the second floor.

3. Flooring: Floors are wooden, with random width boards, three to five inches in width.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings are of plaster on wooden lath.
5. Doorways and doors; The interior wood-paneled doors with moulded trim, measure two feet ten inches by seven feet four inches.
6. Decorative features: The four fireplaces have wooden mantels of simplified classical design.
7. Heating: Three of the fireplaces were adapted with cast iron grates and fronts for burning coal. The fourth was totally bricked up.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The building stands on a lot with a south frontage on Third Street. It is 112 feet deep and twenty-eight feet eight inches wide.
2. Outbuildings: None
3. Landscaping, walks, enclosures: Brick garden walls have been recently added on the east and north property lines, with low cross walls defining the garden spaces.

Prepared by Melvin M. Rotch
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and Historic Madison. The structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1971 under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS, and Melvin M. Rotsch (Texas A & M University), with student assistant architects John G. Albers (University of Florida), Bruce E. Lynch (Washington University), H. T. Moriarity (University of Texas), John M. Szubski (Princeton University), and architectural historian Philip Dole (University of Oregon), at the HABS Field Office in Madison, Indiana. The data was edited in November 1978 in the HABS office by Jan E. Cigliano, staff historian. Photographs were taken by staff photographer Jack E. Boucher in 1971.

ADDENDUM TO
DR. WILLIAM DAVIES HUTCHINGS OFFICE
718 West Third Street
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-81

HABS
IND,
34-MAD,
5-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013